

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 00957 01 OF 02 240944Z  
ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SNM-02 ONY-00 /015 W  
-----116190 240949Z /20

R 231602Z JAN 78  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5003  
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 00957

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LIMDIS

FOR IO/HDC, EA/TIMBS AND S/NM ONLY

E.O. 11652: X-GDS-1  
TAGS: SNAR, UN, LA  
SUBJECT: UNFDAC/LAOS PROGRAM DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) GENEVA 665; (B) VIENTIANE 71; (C) GENEVA 934

SUMMARY: AS REPORTED SEPTTEL, DND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS WILL BE VISITING VIENTIANE IN NEAR FUTURE TO OBSERVE AT FIRST HAND PROBLEMS OF SUBJECT PROGRAM, ESPECIALLY IDENTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATE CROP SUBSTITUTION SITE AND POSSIBILITY OF ALTERING PRESENT PERSONNEL STRUCTURE OF UN PRESENCE IN LPDR. HE DOES NOT EXPECT MR. ARNAUD WILL BE INVOLVED ANY MORE WITH THE POTENTIAL UNFDAC/SRV PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER URGING BY UNFDAC ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WELLMAN (REF. A) AND DISCUSSION WITH MISSION OFFICER ABOUT IMPLICATIONS OF RECENT LAO DEVELOPMENTS, MR. SAENGER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS, DIVISION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS (DND), HAS PLANNED THE TRIP DESCRIBED  
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REF A, PRIMARILY TO LOOK MORE DEEPLY INTO DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE SUBJECT PROGRAM. DURING A STOPOVER IN ROME, HE WILL DISCUSS CROP SUBSTITUTION PROSPECTS WITH MR. BOZZINI, FAO CONSULTANT, WHO VISITED LAOS LAST MONTH ON UN TEAM. WHILE IN VIENTIANE, HE WILL ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE BONA FIDES OF LPDR EXCUSE TO UN FOR NOT PERMITTING UN TEAM TO VISIT POTENTIAL CROP SUBSTITUTION SITES.

HE WILL ALSO INVESTIGATE WHETHER ALTERNATE SITES WHICH LEGITIMATELY MEET UNFDAC CRITERIA MIGHT BE AVAILABLE.

2. IN DISCUSSING THIS ASPECT OF TRIP, SAENGER NOTED THAT THE DND WAS AWARE THAT MR. ARNAUD, DIRECTOR, UN PROGRAM FOR DRUG ABUSE IN LAOS, OFTEN SAW THE WORLD MORE THROUGH THE EYES OF THE LPDR THAN THROUGH THOSE OF THE UN DRUG CONTROL ORGANS IN GENEVA. HE OBSERVED THAT ARNAUD WAS DEDICATED, INDUSTRIOUS AND HAD ESTABLISHED EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH LAOTIAN OFFICIALS, BUT HE TENDED TO ACT BEYOND HIS AUTHORITY AND AT TIMES IN A MANNER NOT HELPFUL TO HIS HEADQUARTERS. IN ADDITION TO CHECKING ON PROGRAM DEVELOPMENTS, SAENGER INTENDS TO REMIND ARNAUD OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE UN.

3. SAENGER EXPLAINED THAT ARNAUD'S PRESENT CONTRACT EXPIRES IN FEBRUARY 1978. ARNAUD REQUESTED A TWO-YEAR EXTENSION, BUT SAENGER WILL INFORM HIM THAT HE WAS EXTENDED FOR ONLY ONE YEAR. SAENGER HOPES THIS MIGHT KEEP HIM ON A TIGHTER LEASH FOR THAT YEAR, DURING WHICH TIME HE ALSO HOPES ARNAUD'S EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH THE LAOTIANS MAY ASSIST IN GETTING THE TWO-PRONGED UNFDAC PROGRAM OFF THE GROUND.

4. FOR THE LONGER HAUL, SAENGER HOPES TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITH LPDR THAT UN CAN RESTRUCTURE ITS PERSONNEL ARRANGEMENTS IN LAOS TO REFLECT PROGRAM NEEDS.  
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HE IS AWARE THIS WILL BE A TICKLISH PROPOSITION BECAUSE LAOTIAN OFFICIALS WILL NATURALLY WISH TO KEEP THEIR AMIABLE OLD BUDDY IN CHARGE AND ARNAUD WISHES TO STAY. SAENGER HOPES THAT BY STRESSING THE NEED FOR EXPERTISE TO OVERSEE A COMPLEX PROGRAM, HE MAY WIN LPDR APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE TO CHANGES WHICH THE UN, IN THE COURSE OF TIME, PERCEIVES AS NECESSARY.

5. MISSION OFFICER EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH SAENGER'S CONCERN THAT THE CROP SUBSTITUTION PROJECT MOVE AHEAD IN PARALLEL WITH THE REHABILITATION PROJECT, AND EXPRESSED APPROVAL OF DND'S PROFESSIONALISM IN SEEKING TO CONFIRM THAT THE CROP SUBSTITUTION MOVES AHEAD AT A LEGITIMATE SITE. HE ALSO CONCURRED WITH THE CONCEPT THAT UN OFFICIALS IN THE FIELD MUST COMPLY WITH OFFICIAL POLICY AND ACT IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER, HOWEVER DEDICATED AND HARDWORKING THEY MIGHT BE. HE MENTIONED THAT DURING HIS WORK IN THE DRUG CONTROL FIELD HE HAD HEARD OF SEVERAL INCIDENTS WHICH RAISED QUESTIONS CONCERNING WHETHER ARNAUD'S JUDGMENT WAS SUCH AS TO JUSTIFY HIS REMAINING DIRECTOR FOR THE UN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL PROGRAM IN LAOS, AND THEREFORE HE APPRECIATED THE WISDOM OF SEEKING TO

ENSURE THE DIVISION'S FLEXIBILITY IN HANDLING THIS MATTER.

6. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION OF WHETHER ARNAUD HAD SENT ANY RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE SRV/UNFDAC PROJECT PROPOSAL, SAENGER SAID "NO". HE ADDED THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT ARNAUD TO HAVE ANY MORE TO DO WITH THAT POTENTIAL PROGRAM. HE SAID DISCUSSIONS ON THIS ARE AT THE WELLMAN/UMBRICHT (UN COORDINATOR FOR AID TO VIET-NAM) LEVEL, AND HE SAW NO REASON FOR ARNAUD TO BECOME INVOLVED.

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FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5004  
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 00957

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MISSION OFFICER COMMENTED THAT THIS APPEARED A WISE APPROACH BECAUSE ARNAUD DID NOT SEEM TO POSSESS THE TYPE OF QUALITIES REQUIRED FOR HARD NEGOTIATIONS.

7. COMMENT. HAVING SPENT A GOOD BIT OF TIME TRYING TO TRACK ARNAUD'S "UNSUPPORTED AND UNSUPPORTABLE STATEMENTS" (REF B), MISSION IS GRATIFIED THAT HIS BOSS IN THE DND HAS FINALLY RECOGNIZED ARNAUD'S DEFICIENCIES. MISSION WILL REPORT THE RESULTS OF SAENGER'S VISIT UPON HIS RETURN TO GENEVA. END COMMENT. VANDEN HEUVEL3

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## Message Attributes

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